(b) It is not possible to give relaxation in the basic academic qualification, as it would be against the spirit of Article 235 of the Constitution. However, relaxations have been provided in the matter of general standard and experience and the Ministry is taking appropriate action for special in—service training.

(c) The relevant information is as follows:

Category	As on 01.01.1993		As on 29.08.1999	
	SC	ST	SC	ST
Class-I	12	04	06	04
Class-II	05	05	07	09
Class-III	08	08	16	10
Class-IV	10	06	01	08

Upliftment of handicapped and widows

899. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICEAND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are any plans and programmes under consideration of Government to uplift the conditions of handicapped and widows in the country;

(b) if so, the full details thereof; and

(c) the details of funds allotted during the current budget under these schemes, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) to (c) A number of schemes are already being implemented by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment to uplift the conditions of persons with disabilities, including women with disabilities. During the current financial year, 2000-01, provision of Rs. 230.10 crore (plan) and Rs. 31.05 crore (Non-Plan) has been provided for the disability sector. In addition, Rs. 31.70 crore (Plan) is earmarked for North-East region. No State-wise funds are earmarked.

The Ministry of Human Resource Development, Department of Women and Child Development is implementing the under-mentioned schemes wherein preference is given to the marginalized women:

(i) Setting up of Employment-cum-Income generating units for women (NORAD). A provision of Rs. 13.00 crore has been made in their budget during the current financial year, 2000-01.

(ii) Support to Training and Employment Programme (STEP). A provision of Rs. 13.00 crore has been made in their budget during the current financial year, 2000-01.

(iii) Condensed Courses of Educational and Vocational Training for Women (CCE&VT). A provision of Rs. 1.50 crore has been made in their budget during the current financial year, 2000-01.

(iv) Rashtriya Mahila Kosh gives funds to NGOs to promote self-employment. A provision of Rs. 3.00 crore has been made in their budget during the current financial year, 2000-01.

The Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment has provided grant-in-aid to the Guild of Service, New Delhi for their project for rehabilitation of widows at Vrindavan (U.P.). A total grain-in-aid of Rs. 15.97 lakhs has been given during the period from 1998-99 to 2000-01.

Amount for development of SCs in Orissa through NSCFDC

900. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount spent for the development of Scheduled Castes people in Orissa through National Scheduled Castes Finance and Development Corporation;

(b) whether it is a fact that the amount spent is small as compared to that of any other State;

(c) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(d) the schemes and amount sanctioned by National Scheduled Castes Finance and Development Corporation for Orissa during the years 1998-99 and 1999-2000?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) Orissa SC and ST Finance Co-op. Corporation Limited has reported utilization of Rs. 1208.83 lakhs out of funds obtained from National SC&ST Finance and Development Corporation (NSFDC) by providing financial assistance to SC and ST beneficiaries as on 31.3.2000.

(b) and (c) NSFDC allocates available resources to all States/UT level channelising agencies in the beginning of financial year based on each State/